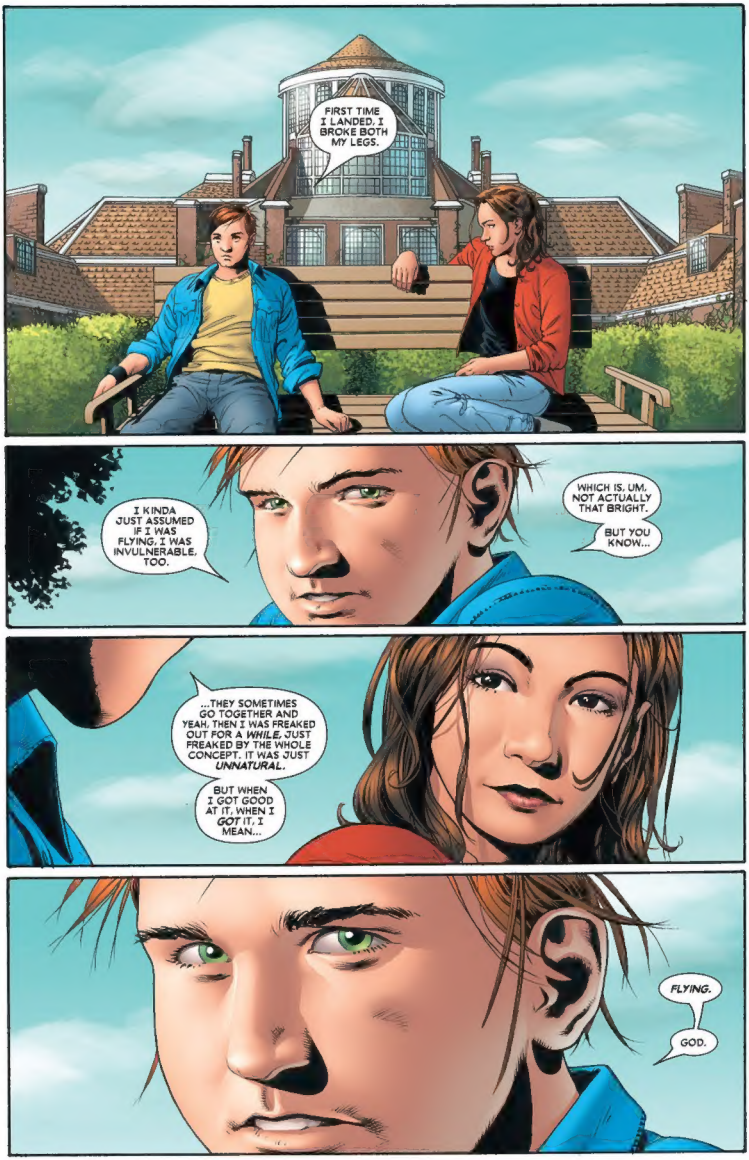
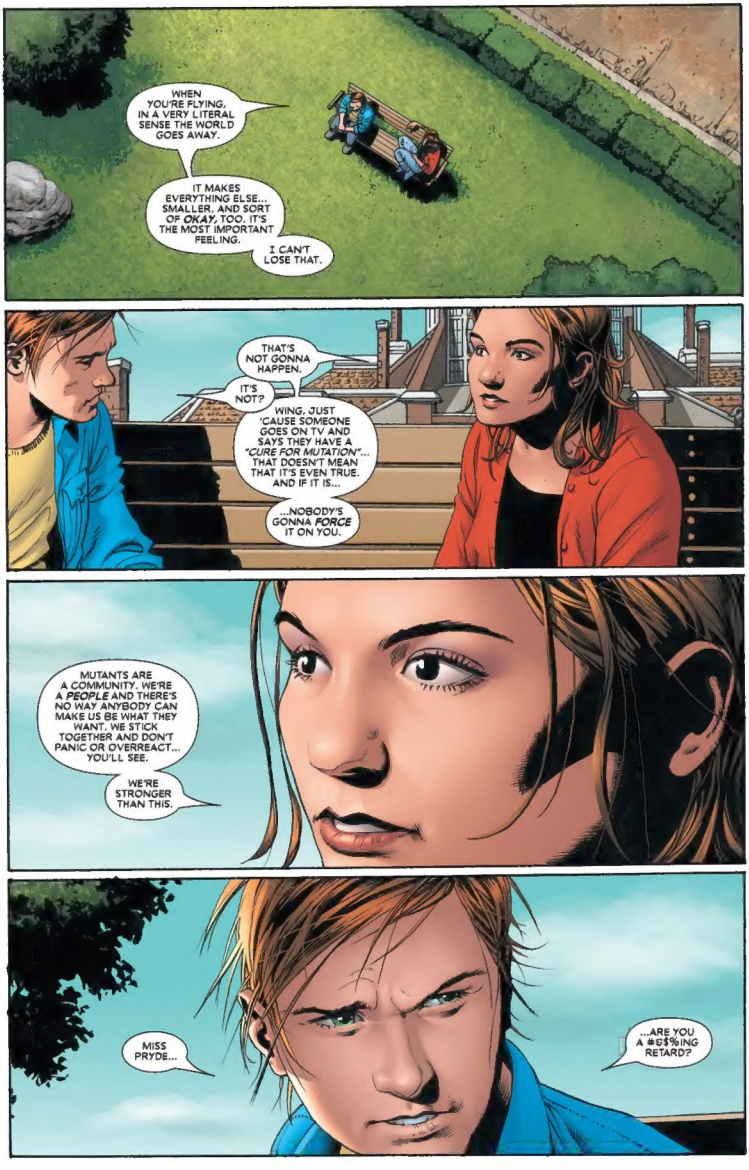
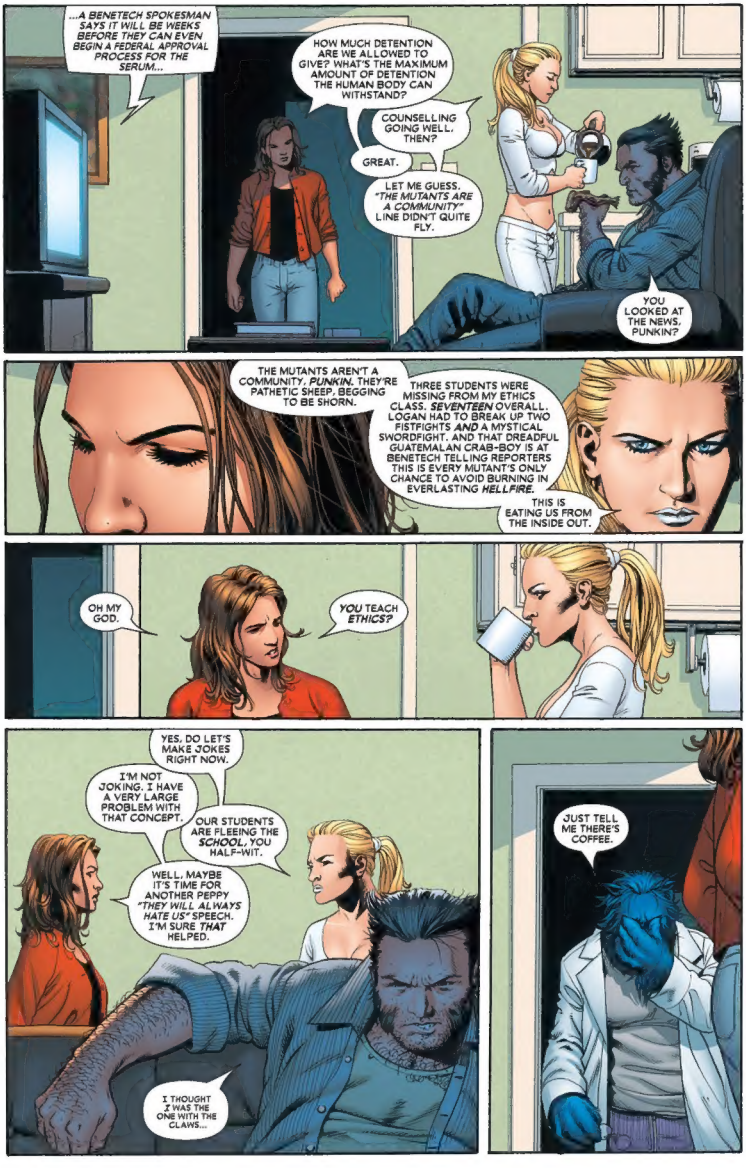
MARVEL
PSR 3
WHEDON
CASSADAY
ASTONISHING
X-MEN


FIRST TIME I LANDED, I BROKE BOTH MY LEGS.
I KINDA JUST ASSUMED IF I WAS FLYING, I WAS INVULNERABLE, TOO.
WHICH IS, UM, NOT ACTUALLY THAT BRIGHT.
BUT YOU KNOW...
...THEY SOMETIMES GO TOGETHER AND YEAH, THEN I WAS FREAKED OUT FOR A *WHILE*, JUST FREAKED BY THE WHOLE CONCEPT. IT WAS JUST *UNNATURAL*.
BUT WHEN I GOT GOOD AT IT, WHEN I *GOT* IT, I MEAN...
FLYING.
GOD.

Love, Megan


WHEN YOU'RE FLYING, IN A VERY LITERAL SENSE THE WORLD GOES AWAY.
IT MAKES EVERYTHING ELSE... SMALLER, AND SORT OF *OKAY*, TOO. IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT FEELING.
I CAN'T LOSE THAT.
THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
IT'S NOT?
WING, JUST 'CAUSE SOMEONE GOES ON TV AND SAYS THEY HAVE A *"CURE FOR MUTATION"*... THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT'S EVEN TRUE. AND IF IT IS...
...NOBODY'S GONNA *FORCE* IT ON YOU.
MUTANTS ARE A *COMMUNITY*. WE'RE A *PEOPLE* AND THERE'S NO WAY ANYBODY CAN MAKE US BE WHAT THEY WANT. WE STICK TOGETHER AND DON'T PANIC OR OVERREACT... YOU'LL SEE.
WE'RE STRONGER THAN THIS.
MISS PRYDE...
...ARE YOU A @$%ING RETARD?

...REPORTS THAT OVER SIXTEEN HUNDRED ALLEGED MUTANTS ARE LINED UP OUTSIDE BENETECH LABS DEMANDING THIS "CURE"...
BenaTech
ABORATORIES


...A BENETECH SPOKESMAN SAYS IT WILL BE WEEKS BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN BEGIN A FEDERAL APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE SERUM...
HOW MUCH DETENTION ARE WE ALLOWED TO GIVE? WHAT'S THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DETENTION THE HUMAN BODY CAN WITHSTAND?
COUNSELLING GOING WELL. THEN?
GREAT.
LET ME GUESS. "THE MUTANTS ARE A COMMUNITY" LINE DIDN'T QUITE FLY.
YOU LOOKED AT THE NEWS, PUNKIN?
THE MUTANTS AREN'T A COMMUNITY, PUNKIN. THEY'RE PATHETIC SHEEP, BEGGING TO BE SHORN.
THREE STUDENTS WERE MISSING FROM MY ETHICS CLASS. SEVENTEEN OVERALL. LOGAN HAD TO BREAK UP TWO FISTFIGHTS AND A MYSTICAL SWORDFIGHT. AND THAT DREADFUL GUATEMALAN CRAB-BOY IS AT BENETECH TELLING REPORTERS THIS IS EVERY MUTANT'S ONLY CHANCE TO AVOID BURNING IN EVERLASTING HELLFIRE.
THIS IS EATING US FROM THE INSIDE OUT.
OH MY GOD.
YOU TEACH ETHICS?
YES, DO LET'S MAKE JOKES RIGHT NOW.
I'M NOT JOKING. I HAVE A VERY LARGE PROBLEM WITH THAT CONCEPT.
OUR STUDENTS ARE FLEEING THE SCHOOL, YOU HALF-WIT.
WELL, MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER PEPPY "THEY WILL ALWAYS HATE US" SPEECH. I'M SURE THAT HELPED.
I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE WITH THE CLAWS...
JUST TELL ME THERE'S COFFEE.

HAVE YOU BEEN UP ALL NIGHT?
LAB. CHECKING OUT A SAMPLE OF DR. RAO'S MUTANT CURE SERUM.
HOW DID YOU--
SHE GAVE IT TO ME.
PERUVIAN BLONDE. FIRST BEANS OF THE SEASON. EMMA, YOUR TASTE NEVER FAILS TO IMPRESS.
I WENT TO SEE KAVITA. SHE AGREED I SHOULD VERIFY HER RESULTS AND GAVE ME A SAMPLE.
I'LL BE A DAY AT MOST.

ARE YOU *INSANE?*

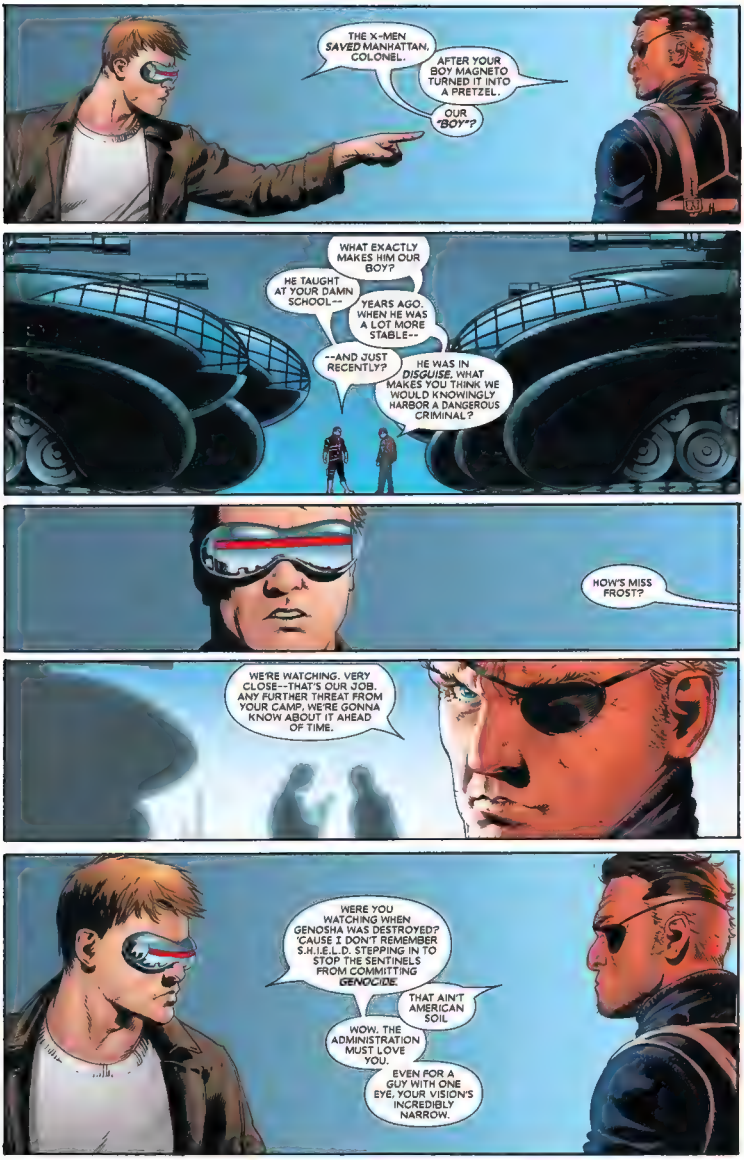
THE CASUAL OBSERVER WOULD PERHAPS NOT LOOK TO *ME* AS THE UNBALANCED ONE.
YOU GAVE THE X-MEN THE SERUM.
I GAVE AN OLD COLLEAGUE A SAMPLE. THEY WERE BOUND TO GET HOLD OF IT SOONER OR LATER ANYHOW.

YOU *KNOW* WHAT THE X-MEN ARE TO ME.
BESIDES AN EXCUSE TO GO AROUND BEHAVING LIKE A SUPER-VILLAIN?
I SAW YOUR *"DIVERSION"* ON THE NEWS. MERCENARIES. HIRED THUGS IN A ROOM FULL OF INNOCENT PEOPLE, IT'S INEXCUSABLE.

YOU SHOULD SHOW RESPECT, EARTHSPAWN. WITHOUT MY TECHNOLOGIES YOU WOULD HAVE NO CURE.
THE TECHNOLOGIES ARE OF YOUR *PEOPLE*. YOUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN A GREAT DEAL MORE AMBIGUOUS.
MY *"CONTRIBUTION"* IS YET TO COME.
IN THE MEANTIME, THE MUTANTS WILL PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO MY FACE.
THE DRAGON DID IT TO YOUR FACE. THE *DRAGON* ISN'T A MUTANT. HE'S AN ALIEN, LIKE YOU. TRY TO GET IT STRAIGHT.
YOUR ANGER IS A LIABILITY. YOU SHOULD KEEP IT IN CHECK.
ONE DAY, DR. RAO, YOU WILL SEE MY ANGER.
YOU ARE A PAWN, ESTEEMED DOCTOR. IN A GRAND SCHEME. YOU COULD NOT COMPREHEND ITS SCOPE.
THEN I WON'T TRY.
PLAY YOUR GAMES, ORD.
I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT CONCERNS.
"SOMEBODY'S GONNA DIE.
"YOU KNOW HOW I KNOW THIS?"

'CAUSE I'M GONNA KILL 'EM.
SO IT *IS* ONE OF YOURS.
THE CASING'S BEEN MODIFIED. BUT THE PACKAGE IS DEFINITELY S.H.I.E.L.D. DESIGN. EXPERIMENTAL. VERY NEW.
IF ONE OF THOSE CLOWNS HAD GOTTEN A ROUND OFF NEAR CIVILIANS ONCE IT WENT HOT...
WE MADE SURE THEY DIDN'T.
WHAT ARE A BUNCH OF SECOND-RATE MERCS DOING WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. WEAPONRY THAT ISN'T EVEN IN THE FIELD YET?
IF I KNEW THAT, I'D BE KILLING SOMEBODY ALREADY.
WELL THEN WHAT ARE A BUNCH OF SECOND-RATE MERCS DOING WITH A PSYCHOTIC ALIEN WARRIOR?
"ORD, OF THE BREAKWORLD." ANY BELLS?
YOU KNOW FOR SURE THIS GUY'S AN E.T.?
RIGHT NOW I DON'T KNOW MUCH.
SO HE COULD BE ANYTHING.
COULD EVEN BE A MUTANT.

AM I MISSING SOMETHING?
I JUST DON'T HAVE A LOT TO GO ON IS ALL.
YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS *"CURE" THING, RIGHT? "MUTANTS ARE A DISEASE"?*
THIS MONSTER SHOWS UP RIGHT WHEN ALL THAT COMES OUT, RUNNING A CREW CARRYING *YOUR* ORDNANCE, AND THE BEST YOU CAN DO IS ACCUSE HIM OF BEING ONE OF *US?*
DON'T GET IN MY FACE, BOY. THAT AIN'T A RIGHT YOU'VE EARNED.
I LET YOU UP HERE 'CAUSE XAVIER'S GOT SOME CRED WITH THE POWERS AND HE SAYS YOU'RE IN CHARGE.
I'LL RUN THIS NAME DOWN, THIS ORD, AND I'LL SHARE WHATEVER I FIND.
BUT IF HE'S GOT SOME BEEF WITH YOUR X-TEAM, THAT PROBLEM'S NOT MINE.
AND IF YOU THINK ANYBODY HERE IS LOSING SLEEP OVER WHETHER OR NOT YOU MUTANTS MIGHT ALL SUDDENLY LOSE YOUR POWERS...
...THEN YOU AIN'T BEEN TO MANHATTAN LATELY.


THE X-MEN SAVED MANHATTAN, COLONEL.
AFTER YOUR BOY MAGNETO TURNED IT INTO A PRETZEL.
OUR "BOY"?
WHAT EXACTLY MAKES HIM OUR BOY?
HE TAUGHT AT YOUR DAMN SCHOOL--
YEARS AGO, WHEN HE WAS A LOT MORE STABLE--
--AND JUST RECENTLY?
HE WAS IN DISGUISE. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE WOULD KNOWINGLY HARBOR A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL?
HOW'S MISS FROST?
WE'RE WATCHING. VERY CLOSE--THAT'S OUR JOB. ANY FURTHER THREAT FROM YOUR CAMP, WE'RE GONNA KNOW ABOUT IT AHEAD OF TIME.
WERE YOU WATCHING WHEN GENOSHA WAS DESTROYED? 'CAUSE I DON'T REMEMBER S.H.I.E.L.D. STEPPING IN TO STOP THE SENTINELS FROM COMMITTING GENOCIDE.
THAT AIN'T AMERICAN SOIL
WOW. THE ADMINISTRATION MUST LOVE YOU.
EVEN FOR A GUY WITH ONE EYE, YOUR VISION'S INCREDIBLY NARROW.

I HEAR ABOUT THIS "ORD", I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL.
YOU KNOW THE WAY OUT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HE KNOWS?
IT'S NOT CONCLUSIVE
BUT THE SAMPLE LOOKS GOOD?
SO FAR IT HOLDS UP.
GET RID OF IT.
GET RID OF IT NOW OR I'LL GO THROUGH YOU TO DO IT.

EMMA.
SHE HAD NO RIGHT TO--
SHE SAID SHE COULDN'T HELP IT.
SHE SAID YOU WERE LIKE A BILLBOARD.
LIKE NEON.
BIG NEON SIGN. FLASHING:
"I WANNA GET OFF."
"I WANNA GET OUT."
IS THAT HOW IT GOES, McCOY? YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH? YOU WANNA SEE HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES THEIR HALF-LIVES?
THE TRUTH IS THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT.
AND THAT IT IS NONE OF YOUR DAMN BUSINESS
WRONG ANSWER

YOU BEAST.

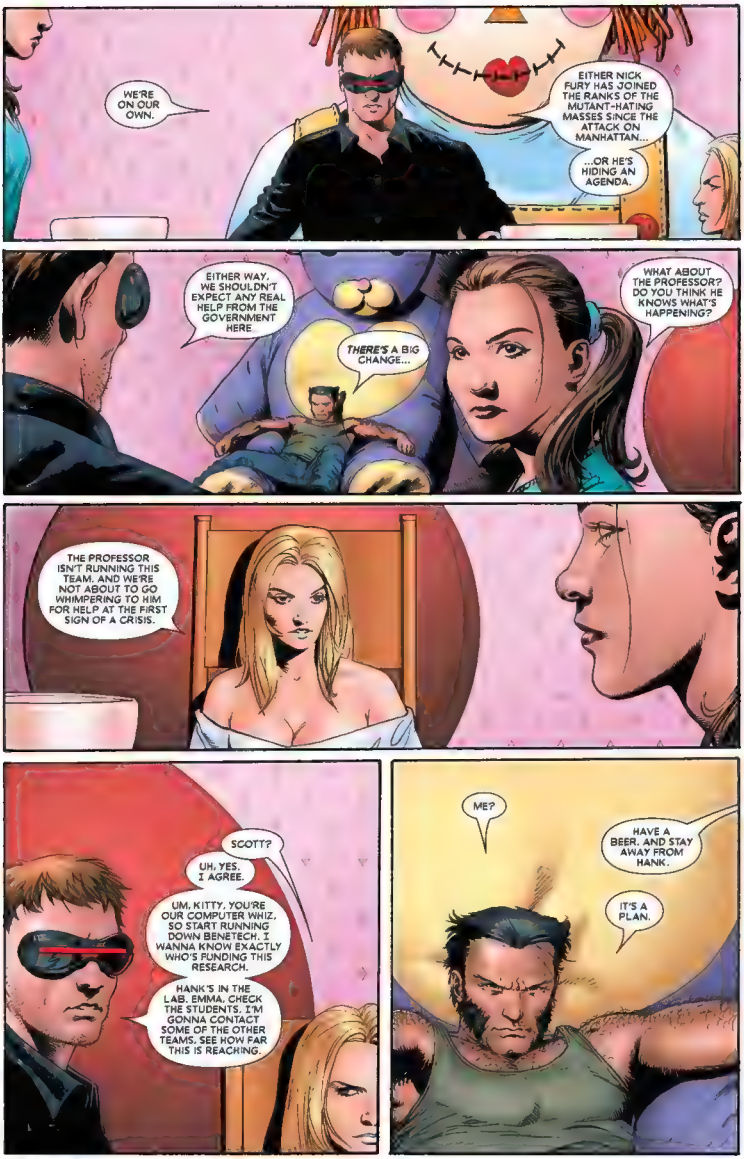
DON'T PUSH THIS, LOGAN.
I AIN'T LETTING YOU--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM.
I USED TO HAVE FINGERS. I USED TO HAVE A MOUTH YOU COULD KISS. I WOULD WALK DOWN THE STREET AND...
MAYBE THIS IS THE SECONDARY STAGE OF MY MUTATION, OR MAYBE CASSANDRA NOVA WAS RIGHT.
MAYBE I'M DEVOLVING.
MY MIND IS STILL SHARP, BUT MY INSTINCTS, MY EMOTIONS...
...YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE OUT OF CONTROL.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, LOGAN?
WAIT UNTIL I'M LYING IN FRONT OF THE STUDENTS, PLAYING WITH A BALL OF STRING?
I AM A HUMAN BEING.
WRONG.
YOU'RE AN X-MAN.

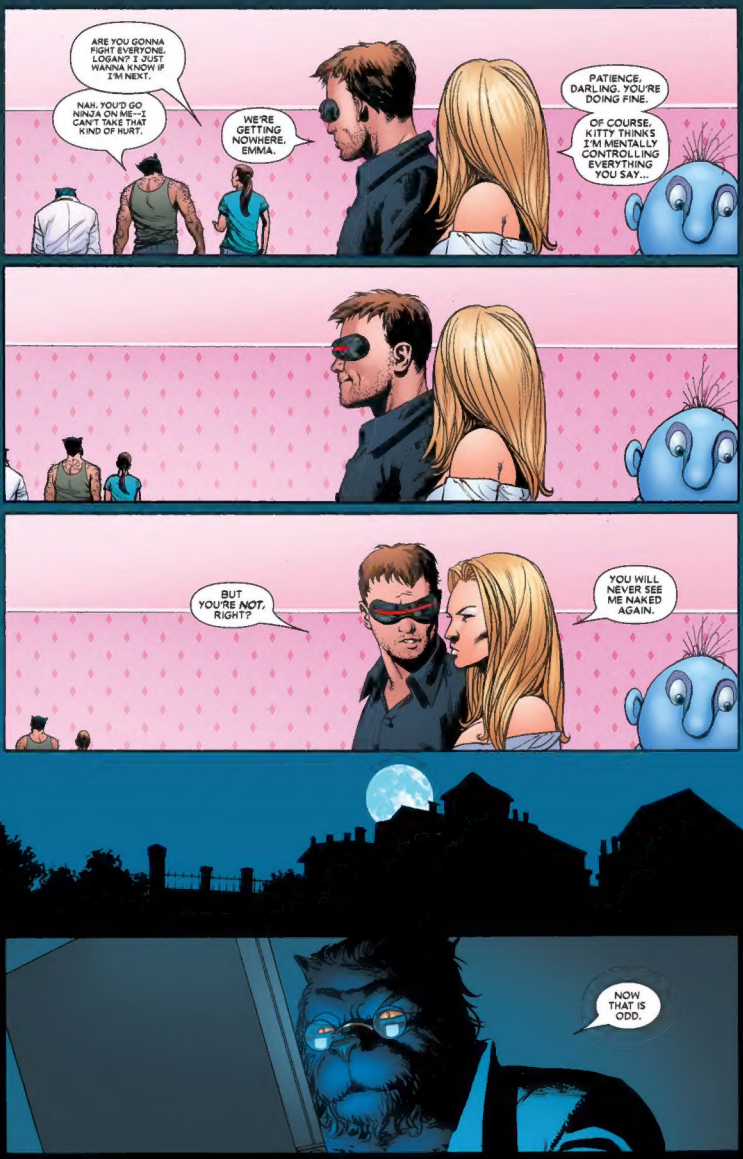
SOME WEAK SISTER IN THE FRESHMAN DORM WANTS TO DROP HIS POWERS. I COULD CARE LESS. BUT AN X-MAN...
ONE OF US CAVES AND IT'S OVER.
IT'S AN ENDORSEMENT STAMP FOR EVERY SINGLE MUTANT TO BE LINED UP AND NEUTERED.
AND YOU KNOW THAT. YOU KNOW THAT!
SO EITHER FLUSH THAT JUNK DOWN THE JOHN RIGHT NOW...
SNIKT
...OR I'M GONNA TURN YOU INTO A THROW-RUG.
LITTLE MAN...
ENOUGH!

SO, WHAT-- THE TEACHERS SPEND ALL THEIR TIME HERE TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER?
THIS PLACE IS SO COOL.

BREAK
AND BOW
VERY GOOD
NOW GET INTO THE DANGER ROOM BEFORE I MAKE YOU BLOODY TANGO

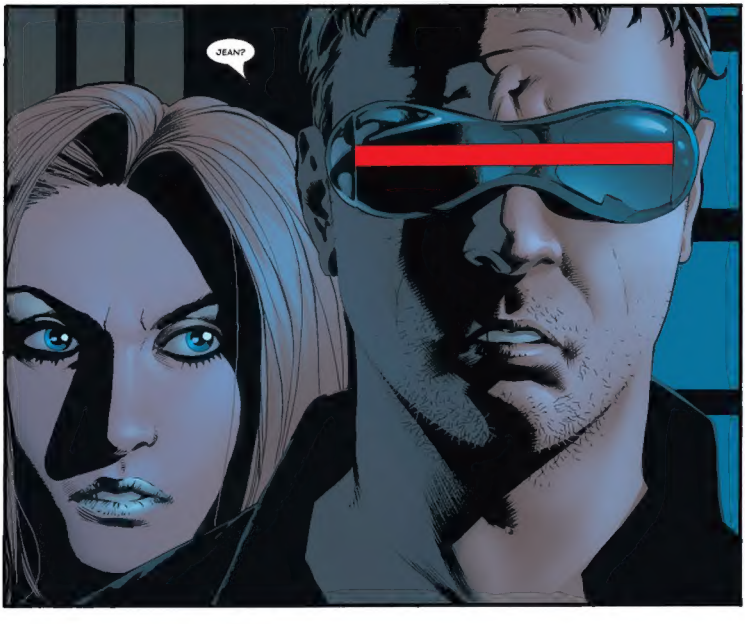
OH, THIS IS REALLY PUSHING IT.
I DIDN'T PROGRAM IT, BUT I HAPPEN TO FIND IT PERFECTLY APPROPRIATE.
I AM CLEARLY THE ONLY ADULT ON THIS ENTIRE TEAM.
SHE'S A TEACHER. ETHICS, AND ALL.
HANK, DO YOU THINK YOUR SAMPLE OF THE SERUM'S STILL VIABLE?
I THINK SO.
WHEN WE'RE DONE, FINISH YOUR ANALYSIS. LET'S NOT BE TEARING EACH OTHER APART OVER A FAKE.
AND IF IT WORKS?
THEN I'M TRUSTING YOU NOT TO DO ANYTHING TILL YOU'VE SPOKEN TO ME.
I HAVE TO SAY THAT I'M WITH LOGAN ON THIS. BUT IT'S YOUR LIFE. I'M JUST ASKING THAT WE TALK.
IS THAT FAIR?
WHAT DID FURY SAY?


WE'RE ON OUR OWN.
EITHER NICK FURY HAS JOINED THE RANKS OF THE MUTANT-HATING MASSES SINCE THE ATTACK ON MANHATTAN...
...OR HE'S HIDING AN AGENDA.
EITHER WAY, WE SHOULDN'T EXPECT ANY REAL HELP FROM THE GOVERNMENT HERE.
THERE'S A BIG CHANGE...
WHAT ABOUT THE PROFESSOR? DO YOU THINK HE KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THE PROFESSOR ISN'T RUNNING THIS TEAM. AND WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO GO WHIMPERING TO HIM FOR HELP AT THE FIRST SIGN OF A CRISIS.
SCOTT?
UH, YES. I AGREE.
UM, KITTY, YOU'RE OUR COMPUTER WHIZ, SO START RUNNING DOWN BENETECH. I WANNA KNOW EXACTLY WHO'S FUNDING THIS RESEARCH.
HANK'S IN THE LAB. EMMA, CHECK THE STUDENTS. I'M GONNA CONTACT SOME OF THE OTHER TEAMS. SEE HOW FAR THIS IS REACHING.
ME?
HAVE A BEER. AND STAY AWAY FROM HANK.
IT'S A PLAN.


ARE YOU GONNA FIGHT EVERYONE, LOGAN? I JUST WANNA KNOW IF I'M NEXT.
NAH. YOU'D GO NINJA ON ME--I CAN'T TAKE THAT KIND OF HURT.
WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE, EMMA.
PATIENCE, DARLING. YOU'RE DOING FINE.
OF COURSE. KITTY THINKS I'M MENTALLY CONTROLLING EVERYTHING YOU SAY...
BUT YOU'RE *NOT*, RIGHT?
YOU WILL NEVER SEE ME NAKED AGAIN.
NOW THAT IS ODD.

> CROSS-REFERENCE
DNA SAMPLE,
ARCHIVE 002
OH NO.
KAVITA, NO...
YOU MONSTER...
YOU GHOUL...
WE HAVE TO GO TO BENETECH.
NOW. TONIGHT.
THE CURE. IT'S REAL? IT'S WHAT-- DANGEROUS?
IT'S NOT ABOUT THAT.
IT'S ABOUT THE BODY THEY'RE RUNNING THEIR TESTS ON.

WHY DOES NOTHING EVER STAY BURIED...?


JEAN?

MEGAN
Empire